

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO JOVENES, INC. AND ITS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STREET SOCCER TEAM

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four highly motivated and talented street soccer players and their coach who traveled from Los Angeles to our nation's capital this summer to compete in the Homeless USA Cup. This was the first time a team from Los Angeles joined the street soccer tournament, which this year included homeless and formerly homeless youth from 11 cities throughout the country.

I am especially proud of the fact that this talented and resilient team was sponsored by Jovenes, Inc., an exemplary community organization that provides needed services to homeless and low-income Latinos in my 34th Congressional District.

Jovenes, Inc. was founded in 1989 by Reverend Richard Estrada, Associate Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Downtown, Los Angeles. Initially, Father Estrada created Jovenes, Inc.—which means youth in Spanish—to address the dire needs of homeless immigrant youth in Los Angeles.

Today, while Jovenes, Inc. remains committed to assisting the immigrant Latino community, the non-profit organization has expanded its reach. Jovenes, Inc. assists at-risk young people ages 16 to 24, foster youth, homeless individuals of all ages, and low-income families. Each year, an estimated 1,500 youth benefit from Jovenes, Inc.'s services, which include emergency and transitional housing, arts programs, mental health services, health education, employment preparation, financial literacy classes for families, after-school programs, GED preparation and computer courses.

Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of working with Father Estrada and Jovenes, Inc. on several occasions. He is an uplifting and positive force throughout the community and I thank him for his advocacy and tireless work to improve the lives of young people and families in my district and elsewhere in Los Angeles County.

Clearly, the notable success of our four street soccer players—Johnny, Densi, Carlos and Peter—who competed in the Homeless USA Cup in June have the dedicated staff of Jovenes, Inc., especially Executive Director Ernesto Montañón, and Director of Programs/Team Coach Andrea Marchetti, to thank for working to make such memorable and empowering opportunities available to them.

While our star street soccer players from Los Angeles lost in their final round against a Minnesota team at the U.S. Homeless Cup, their unstoppable performance in the qualifying round got them noticed. They were all selected for spots on the national team. Three of the players will travel to Australia in Decem-

ber to represent the United States in the Homeless World Cup. The fourth player will serve as an alternate. In addition, all four athletes have been invited to come back to next year's Homeless USA Cup to motivate and serve as examples for new teams and players. In between competitions, the Jovenes, Inc. players continue to work to turn their lives around by resuming their education, furthering their careers, and chasing their goals to live independently in a stable and safe environment.

The organization's newsletter poignantly sums up the impact of the street-soccer tournaments in helping to inspire and motivate these soccer players. "For our youth this is the country that is giving them an opportunity for a successful life, and they will do their best to make everybody proud of them, on and off the pitch! . . . Through soccer, homeless individuals have a way to find the motivation, energy and discipline to solve their daily struggles and feel appreciated and respected. Jovenes, Inc. will continue this experience in the future to motivate our youth to succeed through sports in their life."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the significant work of Father Estrada and Jovenes, Inc. in bettering the lives of young people and Latino families in the community. I also congratulate Johnny, Densi, Carlos and Peter for their exceptional street-soccer abilities. They are truly an inspiration, on and off the soccer field. After all, as they have shown, with the right support and a lot of hard work, anything is possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE KOSSUTH COUNTY FAIR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kossuth County Fair on its 150th year anniversary, from July 24 to August 3, 2008. The Kossuth County Fair is located in Algona, Iowa and serves the approximate 17,000 residents of the county in North Central Iowa.

Throughout many years the Kossuth County Fair has thrived and kept the county together with community fellowship, celebration and camaraderie. I congratulate the Kossuth County Fair on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent the past and current members of the county fair board in the United States Congress. I wish the Kossuth County Fair an equally storied future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN MCCOY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my friend Duncan McCoy by entering his name in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I honor Duncan McCoy for his service to the Boulder City community and congratulate him on his retirement.

Duncan has dedicated his life to enriching the lives of others and sharing his passion for reading. Duncan is a veteran librarian with over 38 years of experience and he became Director of the Boulder City library in 1989. Upon becoming Director, Mr. McCoy has continuously and tirelessly advocated for the Boulder City Library. His tenacity and hard work paid off when he was able to secure bond funding to help the library move into a much larger building to expand its growth.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Duncan McCoy. His vision and commitment to excellence have greatly enriched the Boulder City community and allowed many of our friends and neighbors to experience the joys of reading. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE HOPE AND LIGHT FOUNDATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hope and Light Foundation for their enduring commitment to the elimination of Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Founded by Aaron and Stephanie Miller after their first child was diagnosed with SMA, this group has tirelessly advocated research and education to eliminate this threat. They have armed families with the latest data and educated public, business, and community leaders about the need for more focus on this genetic disorder.

Thanks in part to their work, such as co-funding the first FDA approved drug trial for SMA Type I and organizing the first Southeastern conference dedicated to SMA care and research, the families and researchers working to find a cure are closer than ever. Out of over 600 neurological disorders analyzed by the National Institutes of Health, SMA is considered the closest to realizing effective treatment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and recognize the Hope and Light Foundation for their positive efforts for thousands of

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